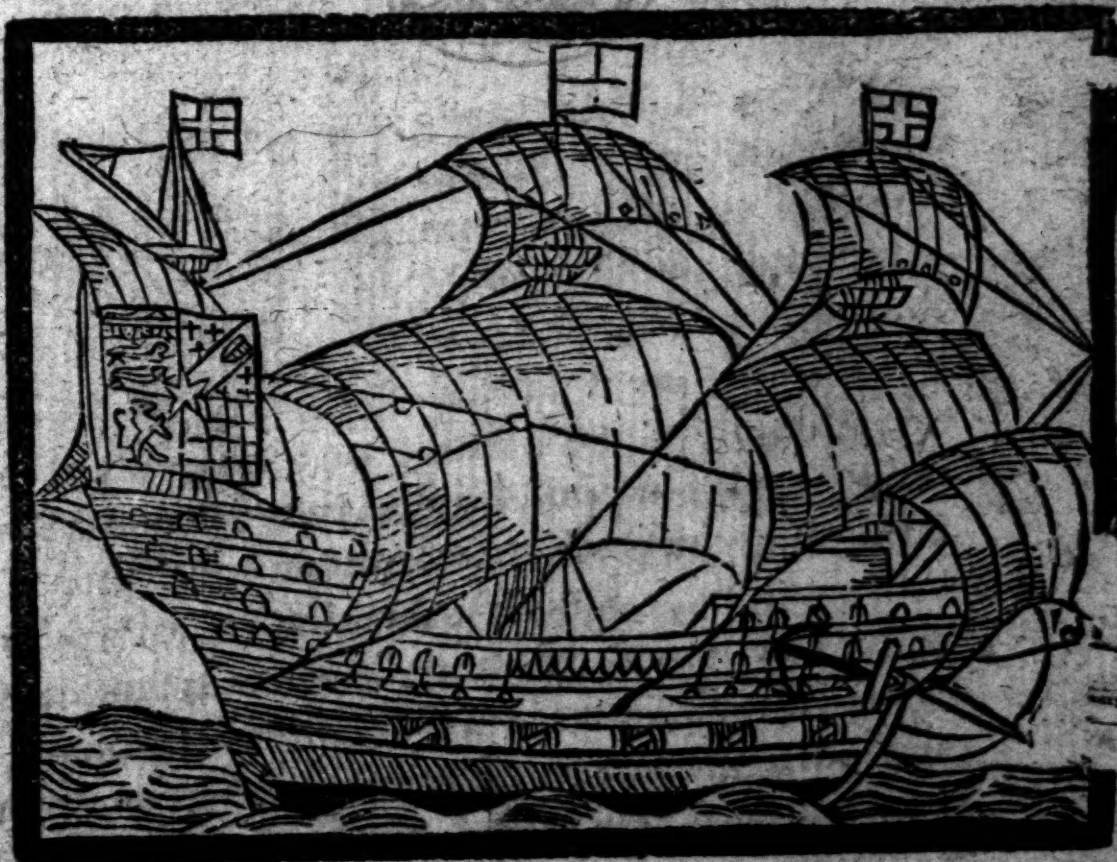


A
TRUE REPORT
OF THE SERVICE
DONE VPON CERTAINE
Gallies passing through the
Narrow Seas:

Written to the Lord high Admirall of
England, by Sir **ROBERT MANSEL**
Knight, Admirall of her Maiesties
forces in that place.



AT LONDON
Printed by *Felix Kyngston*, and are to be sold by *Iohn Newbery*, at his shop in *Paules Churchyard*. 1602.

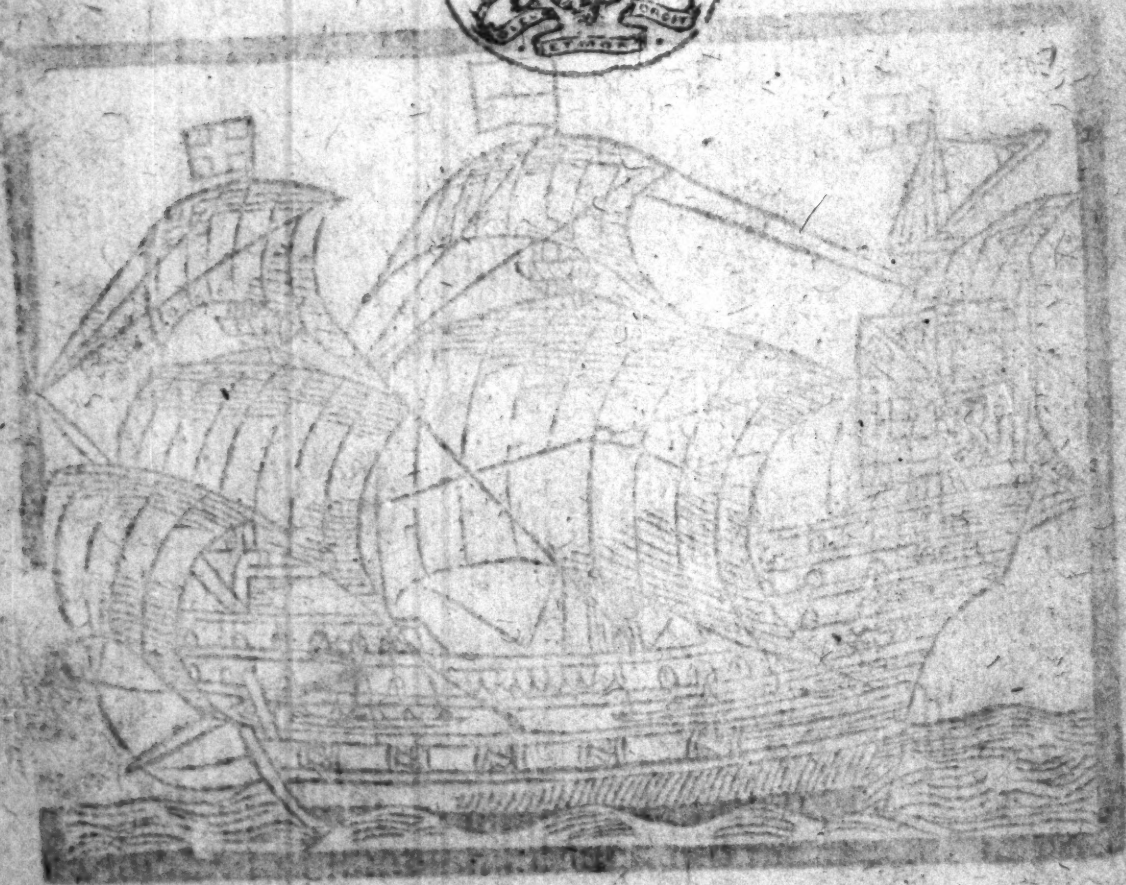
2

TRAVE REPORT OF THE SERVICE

DONE UPON CERTAIN

Galleys passing through the
Narrow Seas:

Written to the Lord High Admiral of
England by Sir ROBERT MANSELL
Knight of the Bath



AT LONDON

Printed by James Knapton and are to be sold by John
Bay at his shop in Pauls Churchyard 1682.



TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE MY

SINGVLAR AND BEST

Lord, the Earle of Nottingham,

Lord high Admirall of
England.



Y dutie to your Lordship hum-
bly remembred. Although the
seruice which I confesse I doe
owe vnto your Lordship in a
manner from my childhood
for many fauors, doth so much
oblige me, as I cannot thinke
how euer it may fall in my po-

wer to expresse it : yet cannot I but acknowledge that
those fauours of yours, whereby any publike trust or ser-
uice hath been committed to me, doe sit neere my heart,
and as often as I do thinke of them, doe call me to a stric-
ter account then any others, which doe onely touch me in
a priuate qualitie : for that in the one, I am onely obliged
to acquite my honesty towards your loue: but in the others
I am bound in a sort to make good your iudgement, and
to iustifie the choise you haue made of me, as a seruant of
the State, for whom your selfe are accountable to her from

THE EPISTLE

whom all power in our State is deriued. The sense which hereof I haue in the inwardest retraite of my soule, is the cause I haue thought my dutie both to you, and to the State not a little interested, in a report very vulgar in many mens mouthes in the Citie, and by this time perhaps spread ouer the Realme. And confirmed by a Pamphlet printed, contayning a narration of the late seruice done vpon the Gallies: wherein no mention being made, neither of my selfe, nor of any of her Maiesties Shippes, nor of our nation, wee are all secretly touched with some note, either of negligence of the things committed to vs, (I specially) or of vnskilfulnes, or of want of courage: from the staines of all which it importeth me to cleere my selfe, not onely for mine owne sake, and our nations; but in some sort for your Lordship, who through my errors cannot but be wounded, for the ill choise made of me, for so great a charge: I haue therefore (though against my nature, which delighteth not to talke of my selfe) been forced for your Lordship, and all other mens satisfaction, to expresse in a few lines, a true report of all that was done in that seruice: which as it is free from affectation of glorie to my selfe, or of imputation to others; so doe I vpon all the dutie I owe, both to your Lordship, and to my owne reputation, undertake to make good in euery point thereof. Beseeching your Lordship notwithstanding, not to repose your selfe onely vpon mine owne assertions: but by diligent inquisition (which is not hard for your Lordship to make, hauing so much power ouer the whole companie that serued with me) thoroughly to enforme your selfe of as much as may suffice to satisfie your iudgement: which if thereby you shall finde confirmed so much as not to repent you of the trust by your fauour committed vnto me,

DEDICATORIE.

me, it is the vtmost of my desire, weighing otherwise little what the vulgar conceits of such as either cannot, or will not thinke aright, shall esteeme of me : if by this true report of my seruice they will not be satisfied. For it is those that can iudge, whom I desire most to content, and specially your Lordship, to whom I doe with as much truth and synceritie dedicate all other seruices which I may be able to doe, as I haue vsed in setting downe this : which I beseech you to accept as a small testimonie thereof.

Your Lordships in all deuotion:

ROBERT MANSEL.

DEDICATORIE.

me it is the utmost of my desire weighing otherwise little
what the vulgar conceits of such as either cannot or will
not think right, shall esteem of me: if by this time
you of my service they will not be satisfied. For it is those
that can judge, whom I desire most to content, and who
shall your Lordship, I am sure, I do not think as much things
and therefore I have all other services which I
may be able to do, as I have tried in writing
down this: which I beseech you to
accept as a small testimony
of my love.

Your Lordship in all devotion.

ROBERT MANSELL.



A TRVE REPORT OF THE SERVICE DONE VPON CERTAINE GALLIES

*passing thorough the Narrow
Seas.*



IN the three and twentic day
of September being in the
Hope, and hauing in my com-
pany, the *Aduantage* onely
of the Queenes Ships, which
Captaine *Iones* commanded,
and two other Dutch men
of warre: I ridde more then
halfe Channell ouer, towards the coast of France,
vpon a Northwest and Southeast line: my selfe be-
ing neereft that coast, Captaine *Iones* next vnto
me, and the Dutch men of warre a Sea-boord, and
to the westward of him. The small force at y^e time
present and with me remaining, thus disposed for
the intercepting of the Gallies, hauing dismiss the
Dutch men of warre, that serued vnder me, vpon
their owne intreatie to reuictual and trimme: and
hauing imployed the rest of the Queenes ships
vpon especiall seruices, I descried from my toppe
B mast

mast heads, fixe lowe sailes, which some made for Gallies; others affirmed them to be small barks that had strooken their top-sailes, being bound from Deepe towards the Downes. To which opinion (though I inclined most) yet caused I the Maister to waie and to stand with them, that I might learne some newes of the Gallies, which by your Lordships aduertisement sent mee, I knew had either past me that night, or were neere at hand: vnlesse the Sea had swallowed them vp in the stormes, which had raged three daies before. Hauing set my selfe vnder saile, the weather waxt thicke, which caused me to lascke some two poyntes from the winde, towards the English coast, least the continuance of that darke weather might giue them power to runne out a head of me. About eleuen of the clocke the weather cleared, when I discovered them plainely to be the Spanish Gallies so long time expected; at which time with the rest, I plied to receiue them by crossing their forefoote, as they stoode alongst the Channell: which they endeauoured, till they perceiued that by the continuance of that course, they could not escape the power of my Ordinance. All this time these two Fliboates were betwixt them and me: and as the Slaues report that swam a shore at Douer, they determined with three Gallies to haue boarded each of those Ships, and would haue executed that resolution, but for the feare of her Maiesties great Galion (as the tearmed the *Hope*) whose force that they shunned

ned in that kinde (considering the disaduantage that twice fixe of the best Gallies that euer I sawe, hath by fighting against one Ship of her force) I doe as much commend, as otherwise I doe detest their shamefull working in that full of cowardlines and weakenes, they rowed backe to the westward, and spent the day by running away : in hope that the darkenes of the night would giue them libertie sufficient to shunne the onely Ship they feared, or that was in deede in the Sea at that time, to giue them cause of feare, I meane betwixt them and Dunkerke or Newport. This error onely of theirs bred their confusion, as you may perceiue by the sequell. For they no sooner began that course of rowing backe againe; but I instantly made signes for Captaine *Jones* in the *Aduantage* of the *Queenes*, to come vnto me : whom I presentlie directed to repaire to Callis roade; and thence to send the al-arme vnto the States armie prepared before Sluce : and to aduise such men of warre as kept on the coast of Flanders, vpon any other occasion, to stand off to the Sea, to meete with the Gallies in the night, which should be chased by me with my lights in my Top-mast heads, and a continuall discharging of my Ordinance. Captaine *Jones* hauing shapte his course according to my directions : I gaue order for hoysing and trimming of my Sayles by the winde, to keepe sight of the Gallies : the two Fliboates being still a weather of me, did the like. Which chase we held till sunne setting, obseruing

this course following all the day. They being a weather of me, kept their continuall boords, that the Gallies were alwaies betwixt them. And my selfe being to Leeward, made such short turnes, as I kept all the afternoone in a manner, euen in the very eye of their course, betwixt them and the place of their desseigne: euer discharging my best Ordinance to warne the *Answer* of her Maiesties, that ridde by my directions at the Downes, vpon important seruice as your Lordship knoweth: and the Flemmings that were there, hauing left the Sea vppon vnknowne groundes to me (yet sent from Portsmouth, by the most prouident direction of her sacred Maiestie, to awaite the comming of the Gallies, vpon aduertisements that her Highnes receiued of their being put to Sea) to set saile, who else had receiued no vnderstanding of the Gallies: neither came they within shot of them, till after night, howsoeuer the reputation of the seruice is wholly challenged by them.

Hauing giuen your Lordship an account how this day was thus spent by me, from eyght of the clocke vntill the euening, and with these onely helpes: I beseech your Lordship to be pleased to vnderstand, that with the setting of the Sunne, I could both discerne the Ships last mentioned vnder saile at the Downes, and the Gallies to haue set their sayles: directing their course close aboard our shore, each of them being out of sight of the other, and my Dutch consorts by
this

this time to haue been left by the Gallies to a sterne chase. When I perceiued them to holde that course, which would bring them within shot of the *Answere*, and the rest that were in the Downes: I held a cleane contrary course from them, towards the coast of France, to confirme the secure passage they thought to finde on our coast, which I continued, vntill the report of their battery gaue me assurance of the Gallies being engaged vnto tham.

How the batterie began, who began it, how it was continued, how ended, and to whom the reputation of the seruice is due, I leaue to be considered by your Lordship, by the perusall of the true discourse following.

The *Answere* of the Queenes, which Captaine *Bredgate* commanded, as she rid more Southerly at the Downes then the Flemmings, so came she first to the Gallies, and bestowed 28. peeces of Ordinance on them before the Flemmings came in, who at length seconded him with very many shot. During this batterie of ours vpon the Gallies, (which was terme, because they neuer exchanged one shot) at the very first report of the *Answers* Ordinance, I directed the Master of my ship to beare vp with the South end of the *Goodwin*, with which directions I deliuered my reasons publikely, as I stood on the poope of my ship, viz. That if I stood directly in to them, the Gallies, before I could recouer the place, would either be driuen a shore or sunke, and so would there proue no neede of my
brass
force,

force; or els by their nimble sayling they would escape the ships, of whom (once getting a head) they could receiue no impediment: for there was no one shippe but the *Aduantage* in the sea that could hinder them to recouer any port in Flanders or the East Countries (Sluce onely excepted) vnlesse I staied them at that sand head.

Hauiing recouered as neere that place as I desired, I staied at least a quarter of an houre, before I could either see Gallie, heare or see any of those Ships, their lights, or report of their Ordinance, which made me and all my companie hold opinion that they had outsailed the *Answere* and the rest of the Flemmings, and shunned sight of me by going a seaboord of my ship: which I so verely beleued, as I once directly determined to saile for Sluce, with hope onely that the preparation which I knew the States had there, would be able to preuent their entrance into that place.

Whilest I remained thus doubtfull, or rather hopelesse to hinder their recouerie of Dunkerke or Newport, in case they had been a seaboord of me, some of my companie descried a single Gallie plying from the shore to get a head of my shippe. When she approched within Caliuier shot, I discharged aboue thirtie peeces of Ordinance of my lower & vpper tyre at her alone, my selfe with many other in my ship saw when her maineyard was shot asunder, heard the report of many shot that hit her hull, heard many their most pitifull outcries: which when I perceiued to continue, and in
steed

steed of making way from me, to neere me what she could; I forbare shooting, and commaunded one that spake the Portugall language, to tell them that I was contented to receiue them into mercie: which I would accordingly haue performed, had not the other fise Gallies offered to stand out a head of me at that very instant, and thereby would haue left me as they had done both the first two Dutch shippes, and afterwards the *Answer* with the rest of the Flemmings, had I omitted any small time of executing the aduantage I had of their being on my broad side, which as appears was so effectually employed (howsoeuer the night wherein this seruice was performed, might hinder the particular mention of their hurts) as none can denie but that God pleased thereby onely to work their confusion. For since that time none hath said or can speake of any one shot made towards them: yet foure of them are sunke and wracked, the fift past doing the enemie seruice: and the sixt they are forced to new build at Dunkerke, where (if I bee not much deceiued) she will prooue more chargeable then profitable, if the fault rest not in our selues.

The disagreement betweene the Dutch Captaines themselues touching the stemming and sinking of the Gallies (whereof one challenged before your Lordship, and in many other publike places, to haue stemmed and sunke two himselfe) and the printed Pamphlet containing the stemming and sinking of three Gallies, giueth the reputation:

force; or els by their nimble sayling they would escape the ships, of whom (once getting a head) they could receiue no impediment: for there was no one shippe but the *Adantage* in the sea that could hinder them to recouer any port in Flanders or the East Countries (Sluce onely excepted) vnlesse I staied them at that sand head.

Hauiing recouered as neere that place as I desired, I staied at least a quarter of an houre, before I could either see Gallie, heare or see any of those Ships, their lights, or report of their Ordinance, which made me and all my companie hold opinion that they had outsailed the *Answer* and the rest of the Flemmings, and shunned sight of me by going a seaboord of my ship: which I so verely beleeued, as I once directly determined to saile for Sluce, with hope onely that the preparation which I knew the States had there, would be able to preuent their entrance into that place.

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steed

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putation thereof to three seuerall Captaines, amongst whom no mention is made of the first: and whereas there are but two in all sunke; I leaue to be reconciled amongst themselves, and to your Lordship, whether that the same of right appertaineth not to her Maiesties Ship the *Hope*, in respect of the allegations before mentioned, euery particular whereof being to be prooued by the oathes of my whole Companie, and maintained with the hazard of my life with that which followeth.

1 As the shooting of the single Gallies mainyard asunder, my bestowing aboue thirtie peeces of Ordinance vpon that one Gallie, within lesse then Caliuier shot.

2 That they in the Galley made many lamentable outcries for my receiuing them vnto mercie.

3 That I would accordinglie haue receiued them, but for giuing them ouer to encounter with the other fise Gallies, which els had left me to a sterne chase.

To these reasons I adde the assertions of the Viceadmirall himselfe, who tolde me (whatsoever he spake in other places) that one of the Gallies, which he stemmed, had her maineyard shot asunder before his comming aboard her: by whomsoever she was then stemmed, your Lordship may iudge, who ruin'd her, considering she made no resistance, by his owne report, but by crying to him for mercie.

Touching

Touching the other Gallie stemmed and funke, I haue alreadye proued how she (as all the rest) had got a head the *Answer* of the Queenes not named, and the rest of the States men of warre with her, who challenge the whole credit of this seruice: They (as all other Sea-men) cannot denie, but that the Gallies will outsaile all Ships, in such a loome gale of winde and smooth sea, as wee had that night.

The Gallies being then quicker of saile then they, how could they by any meanes possible fetch them vp, but by some impediment? Impediment they receiued none, but by my Ordinance: which amounted to fiftie great shot at those five which came last from the shoare, when al the ships were aboute a mile a sterne.

Some notwithstanding out of their detracting dispositions may perchaunce say, that the two which were wrecked at Newport would haue perished by storme, though they had not been battered. Whereto though I haue sufficiently answered, first in shewing that they might haue recouered any of the places thereabouts before 8. of the clock that night but for me; and then the second time before the morning, had they not been encountred by me alone, at the South-sand head: yet for further prooffe that they miscaried by our batterie onely, I say that if one of the Gallies which receiued least damage by our Ordinance did outliue Fridaies storme, continuing till Saterday noone, being driuen among the Islands of Zealand

land to recouer Callis, then surely those two (vnles they had bin exceedingly torne) would haue made shift to haue recouered the Ports of Newport, Graueling or Dunkerke: especially sith from the place where I battered them, they might haue bin at the remotest of those places about foure houres before any storme began. But such seemed their haste to saue their liues, as their thought ranne of a shoare, and not of a harbour.

Now that I haue deliuered vnto your Lordship the whole and true discourse of this businesse, I shall forbear to trouble your patience with any further relation of that night and next daies spending my time (though the same in their chase had like to haue cost her Maiestie her Ship, & the liues of as many as were in her) and cōclude with admiration of their not holding her Maiesties ships, nor I (her vnworthiest seruant) and then and yet by her Highnes grace and your Lordships fauor, Admiral of the forces in that place, are not once mentioned: especially sith the fixe Gallies might safely haue arriued before seauen of the clock that night at any of the Ports of Flaunders to the Westward of Ostend, And that the Dutch shippes had not come from an anchor in the Downes, but for the signes they receiued from me. Then that the force of her Maiesties Shippe, wherein I was, enforced them to keepe close aboard the English shoare, whereby those Shippes in the Downes had power giuen them to come to fight, which fight was begun by the *Answer* of the Queenes.

And

And lastly, sith the Gallies escaped their battery, and had gotten a head those Shippes, aboue a mile at least, and neuer receiued any impediment after, but onely by me, who lingered them (as you haue heard) vntill the comming vp of those Ships that challenge to stemme them: which being granted, I cannot see how any other credit can rightly be giuen them (for that stemme I meane) then to a lackey for pillaging of that dead bodie which his master had slaine.

Although this be a very true report of that which was done in this seruice, and be a thing very plausible to all that are well affected to y^e good successe of her Maiesties affaires: yet should it not haue moued me much who were esteemed to haue been the chiefe actor in so good a worke; or to whom any augmentation of credit might grow thereby, were it not that I haue found some, who (I denie not) haue had their part in that seruice, haue been so farre transported with the opinion of their owne desert therein, as they haue not let in setting forth their owne commendation, to cast a staine vpon other mens, who had a greater part in the worke then themselues, as may appeare by the report aboue recited. Which notwithstanding should the lesse trouble me, if the touch thereof did reach only to my selfe as a priuate gentleman: but seeing the imputation, as it may be gathered in a Pamphlet printed, containing a report of that seruice, wherein no mentiō at al is made either of me, or of

any other her Maiesties seruants or Ships, or of any of our nation, doth derogate not onely from my selfe, but in some sort from the diligence and vigilancie of al publike ministers of her Maiesties Nauie: it behoued me to haue so much sense of mine and their reputations, as by a true report of the thing (as indeed it was done) to redeeme the slander that in some mens conceits (whose eares are quicke enough to receiue ill impressions of publike officers) might bee easily laid vpon vs. For which onely cause is this report published. For how little respect I had to affect reputation to my selfe by publishing any report of that which had passed in this seruice, may appeare by this one circumstance: that as soone as I had presented my self to your Lordship, and Master Secretarie at the Court at Oatlands, and bin by your Honors presented to her Maiestie, and made report of that which had passed: my first suite was, to be licensed to goe into the countrie (as your Honor can well witnes) whither immediatly I repaired attending my owne busines, and from thence returned but very lately, without any thought or purpose of declaiming my owne actions, or of any other thing, more then of returning to my charge, vntill coming to the Citie I found euery mans mouth full of an iniurious report of that seruice, and likewise a Pamphlet printed by the procurement of some who had had to do in that seruice, which did confirme the misconceit thereof. Wherefore I haue been constrained to doe that, which otherwise (as

I haue said is not agreeable to my nature, that is, to
 speake of my selfe. But I shall be herein the more
 to be excused, because the matter doth concerne
 me not onely as a priuate person, but as a publike
 seruant of the State: towards which it becommeth
 me to make cleere all actions wherewith I am put
 in trust. For which respect I must also adde this
 much more; that if any man will take exception to
 any point of that which I haue here aboue vpon so
 good consideration set downe: I would haue him
 vnderstand that I haue not lightly put foorth this
 report, as a blast to fill mens eares: but so aduisedly,
 that at all times I will be readie to maintaine and
 iustifie the truth therof, in such sort as becommeth
 a Gentleman professing Armes; and bearing the
 charge, which by her Maiesties fauour I doe, to iu-
 stifie any thing, which he taketh vpon the ha-
 zard of his reputation to report. And
 in assurance thereof I haue to
 this report set my hand, and
 published it in my
 name.

ROBERT MANSEL.